180km SSW from Lake Goongarrie, and found it to be brimming full with water.

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Red-necked Phalaropes regularly appearing on Rottnest – Over the last few years Red-necked Phalaropes (*Phalaropus lobatus*) have been regularly seen on Rottnest Island. Red-necked Phalaropes are an unusual migratory wader to the south-west of Western Australia. They were first recorded on Rottnest in August 1979 by Roy Wheeler (*Western Australian Bird Notes*, No 13, 1980) which was probably the first record for the south-west of WA (Ron Johnstone, pers. comm., 1994).

The first Red-necked Phalarope I saw was on 30 July 1994, possibly the earliest winter sighting of the species in the south-west of WA. It was with eighteen Banded Stilts at the western end of Pearse Lakes (near where the old salt works were located) on Rottnest. The phalarope kept ducking its head into the water and at the same time its tail popped up. At one stage it swam close to the shore and stood while splashing itself for about a minute. It flew briefly after its washing session and then resumed swimming around and feeding busily. It swam more quickly than the stilts. It appeared to be less than half the size of a stilt and could easily be overlooked. The following day the phalarope could not be seen at that site. Further sightings of a Red-necked Phalarope were made on other Rottnest lakes as well as at Little Parakeet Bay on Rottnest in the spring and summer of 1994/95 as reported on the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (now Birds Australia) telephone hotline.

The Readers' Digest, 1986, *Complete Book of Australian Birds* reports that only a few trickle on to Australia each year, arriving ... in September and leaving by April. The first was not recorded until 1962, near Melbourne. Saunders and de Rebeira, 1993, *Birds of Rottnest* also report that "Another rare visitor that is being recorded more frequently in south-western Australia is the Red-necked Phalarope. The latest sighting to date on Rottnest Island was in late August 1992, when a single bird was present on Government House Lake."

Hayman, Marchant and Prater, 1987, *Shorebirds an Identification to the Waders of the World* report "Some females leave breeding grounds (far north Asia, Europe and North America) in late June. Vagrants have occurred in inland South America, near Cape Town (regular in recent years), Sri Lanka, Australia and New Zealand." The Readers' Digest explains that "Conventional sexual roles are reversed in Phalaropes. The female is larger and more brightly coloured than the male in breeding plumage. She conducts displays and initiates courtship and establishes the breeding territory. The male builds the nest – in a tussock of marsh grasses, lined with plant matter – and incubates and rears the young on his own."

My next sighting was of three Red-necked Phalaropes, a female in breeding plumage and two birds in juvenile or eclipse plumage, on 9 October 1995 on